



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/02163 (22) International Filing Date: 6 July 1999 (06.07.99) (30) Priority Data: 9814650.9 7 July 1998 (07.07.98) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): QUEST INTERNATIONAL B.V. [NL/NL]; Huizerstraatweg 28, NL-1411 GP Naarden (NL). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): PERRING, Keith, Dou- glas [GB/GB]; 14 Malvern Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 8HS (GB). GOULDING, Philip, William [GB/GB]; 86 Tritton Fields, Ashford, Kent TN24 0LT (GB). BEHAN, John, Mar- tin [GB/GB]; The Forge, The Green, Boughton Aluph, Ash- ford, Kent TN25 4JB (GB). (74) Agents: HUMPHRIES, Martyn et al.; ICI Group Intellectual Property, P.O. Box 90, Wilton, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS90 8JE (GB).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the</i> <i>claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of</i> <i>amendments.</i>
(54) Title: PERFUME COMPOSITIONS (57) Abstract A perfume composition contains at least 15 % by weight one or more defined aldehydes, and at least 30 % by weight of at least one of five defined categories of hydroxylic materials, ketones, ethers, esters and nitriles. The perfume composition exhibits a deodorant effect, is particularly good at reducing sulphurous malodours, and is suitable for use in deodorant products, personal products and laundry treatment products.		

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PERFUME COMPOSITIONS

This invention relates to perfume compositions, that is to say compositions of fragrance materials, to personal products and other products containing such perfume compositions, and to the use of such perfume compositions to give a deodorant effect.

5 EP-B-3172, EP-A-5618, US-A-4304679, US-A-4322308, US-A-4278658, US-A-4134838, US-A-4288341, USA-4289641 and US 4 906 454 all describe perfume compositions which exhibit a deodorant action, (i.e. addresses the problem of human body odour, particularly that of the axillae) either when applied to human skin using a cosmetically acceptable vehicle or when included in a detergent product or fabric conditioning product used in laundering of 10 textiles. EP-B-147191 and US-A-4663068 describes deodorant perfume compositions which are stable in the presence of bleaching materials.

A difficulty with the perfume compositions disclosed in these documents is that they generally include appreciable quantities of relatively high molecular weight perfume components which help to extend the effective lifetime of deodorant action following product application, but 15 which tend to have less perfume impact and to exhibit odour characteristics which span a finite range. This limitation on perfume composition represents a compromise between long term deodorant efficacy and optimal hedonic performance.

We have now found that deodorant perfumes can be made by the use of materials from certain specified categories of perfume materials which makes it possible to obtain fragrances 20 containing lower quantities of high boiling components while also obtaining good long term deodorant properties. Forms of this invention can deliver a deodorant performance which improves on that obtained from compositions exemplified in the prior documents above. In particular compositions according to the invention are good at reducing sulphurous malodours in body odour.

25 Accordingly, the present invention provides a perfume composition comprising
(1) at least 15% by weight of the perfume composition of one or more aldehydes of general formula



having an octanol-water partition coefficient within the range of 2.0 to 4.4 (In logarithmic form), 30 and wherein the group R' is a hydrocarbyl radical which may comprise aromatic or aliphatic groups, and mixtures thereof, and which may be cyclic or acyclic, straight chained or branched, and optionally substituted with other groups, with the proviso that at least 1% by weight of the perfume composition comprises aliphatic aldehydes of this general formula, and
(2) at least 30%, preferably at least 70%, by weight of the perfume composition of at least 35 one, preferably at least two, and more preferably at least three of the following five categories of perfumery ingredients;

a) at least 2.0%, preferably at least 4.0%, by weight of the perfume composition of one or more hydroxylic materials of general formula



having an octanol-water partition coefficient within the range of 2.5 to 3.6 (in logarithmic form), and wherein the group R' is a hydrocarbyl radical containing no more than one olefinic double bond, and comprising aromatic or aliphatic groups, and mixtures thereof, and which may be cyclic or acyclic, straight chained or branched, and optionally substituted with other groups,

b) at least 2.0%, preferably at least 4.0%, by weight of the perfume composition of one or more ketones of general formula



having an octanol-water partition coefficient within the range of 3.0 to 4.1 (in logarithmic form), and wherein the groups R' and R² are independently hydrocarbyl radicals which may comprise aromatic or aliphatic groups, and mixtures thereof, and may be cyclic or acyclic, straight chained or branched, and optionally substituted with other groups,

c) at least 2.0%, preferably at least 4.0%, by weight of the perfume composition of one or more ethers of general formula



having an octanol-water partition coefficient within the range 3.0 to 4.0 (in logarithmic form), and wherein the groups R' and R² are independently hydrocarbyl radicals which may comprise aliphatic or aromatic groups, and mixtures thereof, and which may be straight chained or branched and optionally substituted with other groups, with the proviso that at least one of R' and R² comprises an olefinic double bond,

d) at least 2.0%, preferably at least 4.0%, by weight of the perfume composition of one or more esters of general formula



having an octanol-water partition coefficient within the range 2.6 to 4.3 (in logarithmic form), and wherein the groups R' and R² are independently hydrocarbyl radicals which may comprise saturated aliphatic or aromatic groups, and mixtures thereof, and which may be straight chained or branched, cyclic or acyclic, and optionally substituted with other groups, and

e) at least 2.0%, preferably at least 4.0% by weight of the perfume composition of one or more nitriles of general formula



having an octanol-water partition coefficient within the range 3.0 to 4.4 (in logarithmic form), and wherein the group R' is a hydrocarbyl radical comprising an olefinic double bond, which may comprise aliphatic or aromatic groups, and mixtures thereof, and which may be straight chained or branched, cyclic or acyclic and optionally substituted with other groups.

category, for example, 4-(4'-hydroxy-4'-methylpentyl)cyclohex-3-enecarbaldehyde comprises both hydroxyl and formyl functional groups and hence could be a member of category (1) as well as (2) (a). In such cases the material is deemed to be within the first named category, that is, in (1) before (2), in (2) (a) before (2) (b) and so forth. Acetals are considered herein as 5 ethers. With regard to the essential oils, synthetic oils and complex mixtures common within the perfumery business, the above rules must be applied to their individual constituents.

Preferred perfumes comprise at least 50%, more preferably at least 60%, and particularly at least 75% by weight of perfume ingredients as described herein. The perfume composition preferably comprises at least 2, more preferably at least 3, and particularly at least 4 of the 5 10 classes of perfumery ingredients (2) (a) to (2) (e).

The invention is directed to perfume compositions and to consumer products which provide a deodorant action when applied to the body within a cosmetically acceptable vehicle. Suitable deodorant products include, but are not limited to, deodorants and antiperspirants including different physical forms such as roll ons, gels, sticks, and aerosols, other personal products 15 such as deocolognes, talcum powders, hand creams, lotions, skin and hair conditioners, sunscreens, soaps, shampoos, and shower gels.

The perfumes described herein may also be usefully employed for deodorant properties in other product areas, for example in detergent and household products such as laundry powders, laundry liquids, rinse conditioners, and household cleaning compositions. Perfumes 20 of the inventions may also be incorporated into textiles directly during manufacture using techniques known in the art, to provide long lasting deodorant protection. It is also known in the art to carry or encapsulate perfumes within other materials such as porous solids or polymeric matrices, in order to provide extended lifetimes, and to provide the possibility of triggered release, for example, during perspiration. Such techniques are applicable within the 25 scope of the present invention.

The invention is illustrated by the following examples.

EXAMPLES

Table 1 below presents a representative list of perfume materials falling within the above categories, together with comparative examples of commonly used perfume ingredients which 30 do not fall within the categories.

Tables 2 to 4 illustrate the use of perfumes of the invention within deodorant products. Their preparation is well known to those skilled in the art.

A Sulphur Reduction Test, suitable for determining reduction of sulphurous malodours in body

odour is as follows:

Take 200µl of saturated vapour from above a vial containing equal weights of ethanethiol and methyl sulphide using a gas-tight syringe. Inject the sulphur-containing materials into the headspace volume of a closed glass vial containing 0.25g of perfume of perfume ingredient.

- 5 Allow to equilibrate for 2 minutes, then remove a small aliquot (e.g. 0.5ml from a 20 ml vial) of mixed vapours from the headspace above the perfume material and analyse by gas chromatography. Care is taken throughout to preserve the integrity of both samples and reduce losses or contamination. The perfume/thiol/sulphide mixture is allowed to equilibrate for a further 13 minutes, after which a second aliquot is sampled and analysed as previously.
- 10 The concentration of sulphurous materials in the vial headspace at 2 minutes and 15 minutes is compared. If the concentration has been reduced by 75% or more, the perfume or perfume ingredient is deemed useful for reducing sulphurous compounds.

Table 1

Examples of Ingredient Categorisation

Material	Category
1,3,4,6,7,8-hexahydro-4,6,6,7,8,8-hexamethylcyclopenta[g]-2-benzopyran	ex
1-(3,5,5,6,8,8-hexamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthalenyl)-1-ethanone	ex
1-Methyl-2-propenyl-4-isopropyl benzene	ex
2 - tert - Butylcyclohexyl acetate	(2) (d)
2,4 - dimethylcyclohex - 3 - ene - 1 - carbaldehyde	(1)
2-Ethyl-4-(2,2,3-trimethyl-3-cyclopenten-1-yl)-2-buten-1-ol	ex
2-methyl-3-(4'-(1''-methylethyl)phenyl)propanal	(1)
4-(4'-hydroxy-4'-methylpentyl)cyclohex-3-enecarbaldehyde	(1)
8,8-Dimethyl-7-(1-methylethyl)-6,10-dioxaspiro[4.5]decane	(2) (c)
Acetyl di-isoamylene	(2) (b)
Benzyl salicylate	ex
Cedrenyl acetate	ex
Citronellol	(2) (a)
Citronellyl nitrile	(2) (e)
Coumarin	ex
Diethyl phthalate	ex
Diethyldimethylcyclohex-2-en-1-one	(2) (b)
Dihydrojasmane	(2) (b)

Dihydrojasnone	(2) (b)
Dimethyl benzyl carbonyl acetate	(2) (d)
Dimethyl hexyl pentan-1-ol	(2) (a)
Dipropylene glycol	ex
Florocyclene	ex
Heliotropin	ex
Hexyl cinnamic aldehyde	ex
Hexyl salicylate	ex
Ionones	(2) (b)
Methyl ionones	ex
Methyl isoeugenol	(1) (c)
Phenylethyl alcohol	ex
Tetrahydrolinalol	(2) (a)
Undecalactone, gamma-	(2) (d)
Vanillin	ex

Note: 'ex' = excluded from classification

Table 2

Perfume composition

Material	w/w %	category
1,3,4,6,7,8-hexahydro-4,6,6,7,8,8-hexamethylcyclopenta[g]-2-benzopyran	8.9	
2 - tert - Butylcyclohexyl acetate	2	2 (d)
2,4 - dimethylcyclohex - 3 - ene - 1 - carbaldehyde	0.5	1
2,6,10-trimethylundec-9-enal	0.2	
2-methyl-3-(4'-(1"-methylethyl)phenyl)propanal	4.6	1
8,8-Dimethyl-7-(1-methylethyl)-6,10-dioxaspiro[4.5]decane	6	2 (c)
Acetyl di-isoamylene	5.5	2 (b)
Cassis base AB2967 (Q)	0.6	
Cervolide (Q)	3	
Diethyl phthalate	9	
Diethyldimethylcyclohex-2- en-1-one	3	2 (b)
Dihydrojasnone	0.5	2 (b)
Dimethyl benzyl carbonyl acetate	2	2 (d)
Hexyl cinnamic aldehyde	5.7	

Ionone, alpha-	8.5	2 (b)
Methyl dihydrojasmonate	12	2 (d)
Lyrat TM	12	1
Methyl isoeugenol	2	2 (c)
Muguet base AB1951 (Q)	2.5	
Tetyrahydrolinalol	11	2 (a)
Undecalactone, gamma-	0.5	2 (d)
total	100%	

1. Materials marked 'Q' are available from Quest International
 2. Lyrat is a mixture of 4-(4'-hydroxy-4'-methylpentyl)cyclohex-3-enecarbaldehyde and 3-(4'-hydroxy-4'-methylpentyl)cyclohex-3-enecarbaldehyde
 3. The perfume comprises over 70% of ingredients according to the invention
- 5 The above perfume composition was particularly effective in the Sulphur Reduction Test.

Table 3

Deodorant stick

Ingredient	Weight %
Ethanol	44.0
Sodium Stearate	7.0
Propylene glycol	11.0
Perfume	1.0
PEG-6-Caprylic/capric glycerides	12.0
Glycerin	5.0
Water	20.0

Table 4

Deodorant aerosol

Ingredient	Weight%
Isopropyl myristate	3.0
Propellants	to 100%
Fumed silica	0.25

Perfume	1.5

Table 5

Roll-ons

Ingredient	Weight%	Weight%
Ethanol		60.0
Klucel MF		0.65
Cremophor RM410		0.5
Bentone gel IPM (Rheox Inc.)	27.0	
Silicone fluid DC344 (Dow Corning)	to 100%	
Aluminium chlorhydrate powder	20.0	
Perfume	0.75	1.00
Water		to 100%

CLAIMS

1. A perfume composition comprising

(1) at least 15% by weight of the perfume composition of one or more aldehydes of general formula

5 R^1CHO

having an octanol-water partition coefficient within the range of 2.0 to 4.4 (in logarithmic form), and wherein the group R^1 is a hydrocarbyl radical which may comprise aromatic or aliphatic groups, and mixtures thereof, and which may be cyclic or acyclic, straight chained or branched, and optionally substituted with other groups, with the proviso that at least 1% by weight of the perfume composition comprises aliphatic aldehydes of this general formula, and (2) at least 30%, preferably at least 70%, by weight of the perfume composition of at least one, preferably at least two, and more preferably at least three of the following five categories of perfumery ingredients;

15 a) at least 2.0%, preferably at least 4.0%, by weight of the perfume composition of one or more hydroxylic materials of general formula

R^1OH

20 having an octanol-water partition coefficient within the range of 2.5 to 3.6 (in logarithmic form), and wherein the group R^1 is a hydrocarbyl radical containing no more than one olefinic double bond, and comprising aromatic or aliphatic groups, and mixtures thereof, and which may be cyclic or acyclic, straight chained or branched, and optionally substituted with other groups,

b) at least 2.0%, preferably at least 4.0%, by weight of the perfume composition of one or more ketones of general formula

R^1COR^2

25 having an octanol-water partition coefficient within the range of 3.0 to 4.1 (in logarithmic form), and wherein the groups R^1 and R^2 are independently hydrocarbyl radicals which may comprise aromatic or aliphatic groups, and mixtures thereof, and may be cyclic or acyclic, straight chained or branched, and optionally substituted with other groups,

30 c) at least 2.0%, preferably at least 4.0%, by weight of the perfume composition of one or more ethers of general formula

R^1OR^2

35 having an octanol-water partition coefficient within the range 3.0 to 4.0 (in logarithmic form), and wherein the groups R^1 and R^2 are independently hydrocarbyl radicals which may comprise aliphatic or aromatic groups, and mixtures thereof, and which may be straight chained or branched and optionally substituted with other groups, with the proviso that at least one of R^1 and R^2 comprises an olefinic double bond,

d) at least 2.0%, preferably at least 4.0%, by weight of the perfume composition of one or more esters of general formula

40 $R^1CO_2R^2$

- having an octanol-water partition coefficient within the range 2.6 to 4.3 (in logarithmic form), and wherein the groups R¹ and R² are independently hydrocarbyl radicals which may comprise saturated aliphatic or aromatic groups, and mixtures thereof, and which may be straight chained or branched, cyclic or acyclic, and optionally substituted with other groups, and
- 5 e) at least 2.0%, preferably at least 4.0% by weight of the perfume composition of one or more nitriles of general formula



- having an octanol-water partition coefficient within the range 3.0 to 4.4 (in logarithmic form), and wherein the group R¹ is a hydrocarbyl radical comprising an olefinic double bond, which may comprise aliphatic or aromatic groups, and mixtures thereof, and which may be straight chained or branched, cyclic or acyclic and optionally substituted with other groups.
- 10

2. A perfume composition according to claim 1 wherein the hydroxylic materials of category (2) (a) comprise one or more of the following materials
- 15

Citronellol

Dimethylheptanol

Tetrahydrolinalol.

3. A perfume composition according to either one of claims 1 and 2 wherein the aldehydes of category (1) comprise less than two hydrogen atoms attached to the carbon atom adjacent to the carbonyl function.
- 20
4. A perfume composition according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the ethers of category (c) comprise an alicyclic or aromatic ring within R¹.
5. A perfume composition according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the esters of category (d) comprise an alicyclic or aromatic ring within R¹ or R².
- 25
6. A perfume composition according to any one of the preceding claims comprising at least 50% by weight of specified ingredients.
7. A perfume composition according to any one of the preceding claims comprising at least 60% by weight of specified ingredients.
- 30
8. A perfume composition according to any one of the preceding claims comprising at least 75% by weight of specified ingredients.
9. A deodorant product comprising a perfume composition defined in any one of the preceding claims.
10. A deodorant product according to claim 9 wherein the product is a personal product including shampoos, creams, lotions, conditioners, soaps and talcs.
- 35
11. A deodorant product according to claim 9 wherein the product is a laundry treatment product including detergents and rinse conditioners.
12. The use, as a deodorant, of a perfume composition defined in any one of claims 1 to 8, and of a deodorant product defined in any one of claims 9 to 11.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61K7/46 A61K7/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3 325 369 A (INT. FLAVORS AND FRAGRANCES, INC.) 13 June 1967 (1967-06-13) column 1, line 11 - line 13 example 1	1-3, 6, 9, 10, 12
X	FR 2 666 510 A (LABO WUEST SA) 13 March 1992 (1992-03-13) page 1, line 24 - page 2, line 24 page 3, line 26 - page 4, line 2 page 4, line 31 - line 35 page 5, line 3 - line 4	1-3, 6-10, 12
X	EP 0 076 493 A (DRAGOCO GERBERDING CO GMBH) 13 April 1983 (1983-04-13) example 5 claims	1-3



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 November 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

18/11/1999

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>EP 0 834 551 A (HENKEL KGAA) 8 April 1998 (1998-04-08) abstract page 2, line 43 -page 3, line 7 page 3, line 33 - line 38 page 8, line 22 - line 26 table 3</p> <p>---</p>	1-3,5-7, 9-12
A	<p>WO 97 30689 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 28 August 1997 (1997-08-28) page 3, line 14 - line 32 page 4, line 10 -page 5, line 32 table 1 example M</p> <p>---</p>	1-3,6,7, 9,10,12
A	<p>EP 0 545 556 A (QUEST INT NEDERLAND) 9 June 1993 (1993-06-09) abstract page 2, line 18 -page 6, line 48 table 1</p> <p>---</p>	1-3,5,6, 9-12
A	<p>US 5 733 535 A (HOLLINGSHEAD JUDITH ANN ET AL) 31 March 1998 (1998-03-31) column 2, line 5 - line 9 column 2, line 21 - line 50 column 4, line 56 -column 6, line 14 page 19, line 1 - line 30</p> <p>-----</p>	1-3,5,9

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/GB 99/ 02163

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☒ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Present claims 1-12 relate to a composition, a product and a use defined by reference to the parameter: "octanol-water partition coefficient". The values of this parameter are only known for a selection of the compounds embraced by the claims. As a consequence, the use of this parameter in the present context is considered to lead to a lack of clarity within the meaning of Article 6 PCT. It is not fully possible to compare the parameter the applicant has chosen to employ with what is set out in the prior art. The lack of clarity is such as to render a meaningful complete search impossible. Moreover, the structural definitions of the compounds are not fully defined, and are open-ended (e.g. "optionally substituted with other groups") leaving doubts as to the question which compounds actually are comprised by the claims, and which are not comprised by the claims. A meaningful search over the whole scope of the claims is virtually impossible in this situation. Consequently, the search has been restricted to the compounds cited in the examples (Tables 1-2, p. 5-7), the compounds for which the ClogP-value, which corresponds to the octanol-water partition coefficient, was given in W09730689 (Tables 1-2, p. 7-9 and Perfumes A-Q, p. 61-71), obvious variants thereof and the general idea underlying the application.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 3325369 A	13-06-1967	BE 647423 A CH 436541 A DE 1213942 B FR 1392973 A GB 1018836 A NL 136826 C NL 6404880 A NL 6918946 A NL 6918947 A US RE27332 E	30-10-1964 07-07-1965 04-11-1964 23-03-1970 23-03-1970 11-04-1972
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